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State Dept. Shifts 6, But Denies 'Leakage'

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United Press International

A State Department spokesman said yesterday that six staff members of the Office of Security Affairs had been transferred to another bureau. He denied that they were switched because they had leaked data to Congressional investigators.

The official department spokesman said the six had been assigned to "important jobs in the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs that will utilize their talents to the fullest."

The Office of Security Affairs has been a long-standing target of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. The chief of the evaluation division of the security office, Otto Otepka, was suspended from his job on charges that he gave classified information to unauthorized persons.

The six men transferred were Raymond A. Loughton, Harry M. Hite, Francis V. Gardner and Edwin A. Burkhardt of the evaluation staff and John R. Norpel Jr. and Howard J. Shea of the investigations section.